

In the claims:

1-20. (Presently canceled)

21. (Presently Presented): An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the polypeptide has carboxylesterase activity;

b) a polypeptide comprising a fragment of at least 50 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the polypeptide has carboxylesterase activity; and

c) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to the complement of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or 3 under stringent conditions comprising hybridization in 6x sodium chloride/sodium citrate at about 45°C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2 X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C, wherein the polypeptide has carboxylesterase activity.

22. (Presently Presented): The polypeptide of claim 21, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the polypeptide has carboxylesterase activity.

23. (Presently Presented): The polypeptide of claim 22, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the polypeptide has carboxylesterase activity.

24. (Presently Presented): An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

25. (Presently Presented): An isolated polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

26. (Presently Presented): An isolated polypeptide which is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

27. (Presently Presented): The polypeptide of claim 21, further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

28. (Presently Presented): The polypeptide of claims 22, further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

29. (Presently Presented): The polypeptide of claims 23, further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

30. (Presently Presented): The polypeptide of claims 24, further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

31. (Presently Presented): The polypeptide of claims 25, further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

32. (Presently Presented): The polypeptide of claims 26, further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.